



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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Request for Proposals Interpretive Assessment of Old NH State House

Issue Date: November 9, 2010

Proposal Due Date: December 3, 2010

Anticipated Project Start Time: March 1, 2011

Anticipated Report Due Date: July 29, 2011

Estimated Project End Date: May 2012

Project Information:

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) is seeking a qualified consultant to perform an interpretive assessment of the structural and architectural elements commonly referred to as the Old State House (OSH), currently in storage in Concord, NH. The interpretive assessment is one of several studies being conducted as part of an Economic Development Initiative (EDI) grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) received by the NHDHR for the OSH.

Built in 1758 in Portsmouth, NH, the OSH was the seat of New Hampshire's colonial government. Dismantled in 1836, one third of the building's frame was removed to Portsmouth's Court Street and survived after being converted into a townhouse. In 1969, the State of New Hampshire purchased the building and moved it to Strawberry Banke Museum to await restoration. After two decades of delay, the structure was removed from Strawberry Banke Museum in 1990. An historic structures report was prepared and the building elements marked, placed into storage, and moved to Concord, NH. The 480 numbered pieces currently in storage comprise the remaining eighteenth-century elements from a two-and-one-half-story 30'x30'6" portion of the original 80'x30' State House structure. The components consist mostly of major framing members, sheathing, and floor boards. Additional material in storage—the majority of surviving architectural elements—date to the rehabilitation of the structure in the 1830s. An interpretive assessment of the remaining OSH elements will be critical as the NHDHR explores various possibilities for reuse of the structure. This project is part of a multi-year study of the OSH and its value as a historical artifact and as a catalyst for heritage tourism in New Hampshire.

Overview of Scope of Services Required

The successful consultant will complete an assessment of the interpretive value of the various elements of the OSH currently in storage. The consultant will be responsible for reviewing existing research and materials related to the OSH including general historic information, drawings, and past and current reports related to the OSH. The assessment will evaluate the interpretive potential of the OSH and provide recommendations for engaging and relevant interpretive models for the architectural elements that include their use as part of a reconstruction, as a partial reconstruction, as a museum-type exhibit of the OSH, and in other less traditional, creative approaches. During 2011 and 2012 the consultant is expected to participate in a series of public planning sessions, and at the end of the project in 2012 the consultant is expected to participate in a roundtable discussion of all findings concerning this grant. *Note that development and implementation of an interpretive plan for the OSH is not included in this scope of work, or in the EDI grant tasks.*

Specific Services / Tasks Required:

The tasks included in this RFP will contribute to Phase I of interpretive planning related to the Old State House. Phase I includes general assessment of interpretive options, determining the overarching type of model most appropriate for interpreting the OSH resource. Later phases, not included in this RFP or in the EDI grant tasks, would include developing and implementing an interpretive plan based upon the chosen model. Note again that development and implementation of an interpretive plan for the OSH are not included in this scope of work.

- Review existing research and materials on the OSH: These materials include a historic structures report, various articles and papers on the OSH, photographs, blueprints of the material placed in storage, and conjectural drawings of the original OSH all currently stored in Concord, NH. A recent conservator's report and digital architectural images will be available to the consultant on the NHDHR website.
- Evaluate the interpretive potential and best uses of the OSH: Provide an assessment of a wide range of interpretive stories/themes it can convey and audiences it could serve, and an analysis of which stories/themes would have the broadest appeal. Recommend engaging and relevant interpretive models for the architectural elements. These models should include recommendations using the architectural elements as part of a full reconstruction, as a partial reconstruction, as a museum-type exhibit, as well as other less traditional approaches including digital humanities. Creative and "thinking outside the box" models appropriate to this unique resource will be essential.
- Evaluate the recommended interpretive models for the OSH: Determine if the stories to be told by the OSH are currently told at existing sites or in other ways in the state, and assess how the OSH would compliment those other interpretive models/locations. Compare the recommended interpretive models to the current trends and interests of the general public. Evaluate the potential role of technology in implementing the recommendations for interpretation. Estimate up-front and annual costs (general range) for implementing and maintaining each suggested interpretive model. Assess benefits and challenges for each model presented. Recommend the best use/interpretive model of the OSH and provide an explanation.
- Submission of findings and recommendations: After review of a draft report by NHDHR, 5 hard copies and 1 digital copy of the completed report that details the findings and recommendations of the interpretive assessment are to be provided by the consultant. This final report shall be submitted by July 29, 2011.
- Attend public planning sessions and final roundtable discussion: Participate in approximately 4 public planning sessions related to the EDI grant project as a whole. Participate in a final roundtable discussion meeting with the project team.

Project Budget:

Review, evaluation, and preparation of report: Not to exceed \$17,000.00

Participation in public planning sessions: Not to exceed \$2,250.00

Participation in final roundtable discussion meeting: Not to exceed \$1725.00

Qualifications:

Federal qualifications apply. The consultant will have at least a Master's degree in history, education, museum studies or a closely related field of study, plus a minimum of seven (7) years and preferably ten (10) years of full-time professional interpretive planning experience. Particularly: previous demonstrable experience with interpretive assessment for unusual historic resources, experience producing a wide variety of interpretive plans based on varied models, experience with digital humanities, and experience working with organizations to determine the most appropriate interpretive model for their sites/resources. Previous experience working

with social themes and architectural history is necessary. Knowledge of, and previous experience in New England is preferred.

Bid Submission Requirements:

- Proposals must be received at the NH Division of Historical Resources, 19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH 03301-3570 before 4:00 PM on December 3, 2010. Proposals will not be accepted electronically.
- Five copies of the proposal must be submitted for consideration. Proposals will include resumes of all project personnel and a mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address for the principal contact.
- Consultants will have education and experience that meets the aforementioned qualifications and will have recent experience applying engaging interpretive models for a variety of resource types at a variety of historic sites. Proposals will not be considered complete without a statement of how the consultant's experience meets the expectations of this project, and a narrative on how the scope will be accomplished. All proposals will be evaluated on a matrix scale where **qualifications will be weighed more heavily than the price of the bid.**
- The proposal will include a list of three client references for projects similar in scope. Include the name and current phone number of the contact person, date project completed, and a brief description of work provided.
- Please note how you became aware of this RFP.
- A not-to-exceed bid for each task category as noted above, and a schedule for the work outlined must be provided as part of proposal package.

The selected proposal will be recommended to the Director of the NHDHR and forwarded to the Governor and Executive Council (G&C) for approval. **The Consultant chosen for the project is required to meet the provisions outlined in the State's P-37 (v. 1/09) Service Agreement Contract (<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/business/documents/p37.pdf>). Please note that the Consultant chosen for the project will be required to submit a Certificate of Good Standing issued by the NH Secretary of State's Office after April 1, 2010, as well as Certificates of Insurance for Comprehensive General Liability and Workers' Compensation, prior to G&C approval in February 2011. It is recommended that potential consultants file a request for the Certificate of Good Standing with the Secretary of State's Office during the proposal period to avoid contracting approval delays.** The "Scope of Work" is a realistic outline of work to be done, however, the scope may increase or decrease during the term of the final service agreement. Work is expected to begin March 1, 2011.

All questions on the project or the proposal should be submitted to Laura Black at (603) 271-6438 at least two days prior to the deadline. NHDHR reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any or all proposals.